



THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

NEWS

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Museum's VIVA! and Gala Series Hosts Berlin-Based Artemis Quartet

"The playing was impeccable—the sound gorgeous, the ensemble seamless and the virtuosity totally subservient to the music."

—Houston Chronicle

CLEVELAND (Jan. 19)—The Cleveland Museum of Art's VIVA! and Gala Around Town concert series proudly presents Artemis Quartet, hailed by *The New York Times* as "one of the most impressive of the new generation of string quartets," **Friday, Feb. 9, at Plymouth Church UCC, 2860 Coventry Road, in Shaker Heights.**

Admission to the performance is \$29; \$27 for CMA Members. Free parking is available on-site in the Plymouth Church lot. To purchase tickets call the CMA Ticket Center at 1-888-CMA-0033 or online at www.clevelandart.org/viva.

Formed in 1989 at the Musikhochschule, or Academy of Music, in Lübeck, Germany, where its members studied with Walter Levin, formerly of the LaSalle Quartet, Artemis Quartet's meteoric rise to fame began with the receipt of top awards at the 1995 German Music Competition, followed by top honors at the 1996 Munich Competition and the 1997 Premio Borciani Competition. In 2001, the ensemble received the Rheingau Music Award and was the first quartet ever awarded the Music Prize of the Association of German Critics. In 2002, the quartet was named "Artists of the Year" by *Diapason* magazine. In 2004, the group received the prestigious Siena Accademia Chigiana Prize. Artemis Quartet has recorded works by Mozart, Beethoven, Wolf, Zemlinsky, Webern, Berg, Ligeti, Brahms and Verdi on the Ars Musici label, having received Diapason d'Or awards for their 1997 debut album of works by Berg, Webern, Wolf and Zemlinsky and a 1999 release of works by Beethoven. In 2005 the Artemis Quartet signed an exclusive contract with Virgin Classics/EMI, which will create at least ten new releases within a period of five years.

(more)

The Berlin-based quartet comprises four accomplished musicians: Natalia Prischepenko and Heime Müller, violins; Volker Jacobson, viola; and Eckart Runge, cello. According to *The*

New York Times writer Anthony Tommasini, who covered the group's American debut in 2000, "they demonstrated the well-balanced tone, technical command and unity of purpose that quartet playing demands. But they also exuded individual qualities that invested their performances with surprise, spontaneity and a sense of risk, qualities that remain hallmarks of their work." In addition to their own acclaimed musicianship, the group also is deeply committed to developing the skills of young musicians in Chile where, after Runge and colleagues formed a youth orchestra nearly a decade ago, some 100 youth orchestras have formed, with others now forming in Venezuela.

Artemis Quartet has graced stages in Japan, France, Austria and London. Their Cleveland program will include Brahms' *Quartet in B Major, Opus 67* and *Quartet in A Minor, Opus 51, No. 2*, in addition to Webern's *Five Pieces for String Quartet, Opus 5*, and *Six Bagatelles for String Quartet, Opus 9*.

In addition to their busy performing and recording schedule Artemis has recorded music for two films. In 1996, they were invited by the Alban Berg Quartet to perform music for "Death and the Maiden" (EMI). And once again with director Bruno Monsaingeon, they played in the film "Strings Attached" (WDR) which features the ensemble's performance of Beethoven's "Grosse Fuge" Opus 133, produced in 2001.

The next performance in the VIVA! & Gala Around Town series is the Grammy-nominated Eroica Trio, the most sought after trio in the world, known for their "edge of the seat intensity." For more information on the entire VIVA! & Gala Around Town series, visit www.clevelandart.org/viva.

The Museum receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council. The VIVA! and Gala Around concert series is sponsored by The Ernest L. and Louise M. Gartner Fund, The P.J. McMyler Musical Endowment Fund, The Anton and Rose Zverina Music Fund, and the Musart Society. Supporting sponsorship is provided by Margaret Wong & Associates. Promotional support for VIVA! & Gala Around Town is provided by WKSU 89.7 FM, WCLV 104.9 FM and 90.3 WCPN Ideastream.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America's leading comprehensive Museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The Museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the Museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.Clevelandart.org.

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